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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2541
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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SUBJ: JON KIMCHE ARTICLE RE LIBYAN COUP

1. WE ARE PASSING ON GIST OF JON KIMCHE ARTICLE IN SEPT 2 EVENING STANDARD: KIMCHE IS NOTORIOUSLY "IMAGINATIVE" REPORTER WHO WRITES WHAT HE THINKS SITUATION MIGHT BE AND AWAITS REACTIONS FROM WHICH TO BUILD BIGGER STORY. NEVERTHELESS, POSTS SHOULD BE AWARE OF KIMCHE ARTICLE WHICH MAY BE PICKED UP BY PRESS ELSEWHERE. OUR FONOFF SOURCES HAVE NO INFO TO CONFIRM ANY PART OF STORY.

2. KIMCHE CLAIMS (A) BAGHDAD CLAIMED LAST NIGHT (SEPT 1) THAT LIBYAN COUP WAS FIRST IRAQI-ASSISTED REVOLUTION TO SUCCEED; (B) IRAQI DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS AND SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARE GOING TO TRIPOLI TONIGHT; (C) CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, ACCORDING TO BAGHDAD, HAS BEEN MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF BA'ATH INTERNATIONAL SINCE 1963; (D) CROWN PRINCE IS ONE OF CENTRAL FIGURES IN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL; (E) KING IDRIS LAST FRIDAY APPROVED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DISPLACING HASSAN AS HEIR TO THRONE AND APPOINTING 12-MAN REGENCY COUNCIL; (F) COL.

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SAADEDDIN ABU SHUHEIRIB, THE ONLY REVOLUTIONARY AIDE-DE-CAMP;
(G) COL. SHUHEIRIB HAS BEEN ACTING AS CHIEF LIAISON BETWEEN
TRIPOLI AND BA'ATH HEADQUARTERS IN BAGHDAD.
ANNENBERG

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